

## LOG OF MEETING

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
No Mfrs/PrvtLbrs, or  
Products Identified  
Excepted by  
Firms Notice  
Comments  
CPSC/OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY  
2000 MAR 15 A 11:48

**SUBJECT:** Update on CPSC staff activities related to fire.

**DATE:** March 8, 2000

**PLACE:** Phoenix Park Hotel  
Washington, DC

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** March 10, 2000

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** William H. King, Jr., ES *Wmkj*

**CPSC PARTICIPANT:** William H. King, Jr., ES

### NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:

Don Bliss, National Assoc. of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)  
Margaret Simonson, Swedish National Testing & Research Institute  
James Hoebel, consultant  
Francis McGarry, NASFM  
Gordon Damant, Inter-City Testing & Consulting Corp.  
John Watts, Fire Safety Institute  
Gary Ter Haar, Albemarle Corp.  
Sandy Ruiter, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)  
Gordon Gillerman, UL  
and several other guests and members of the NASFM technical advisory committee.

### SUMMARY:

Attached is the material presented by Mr. King at this meeting.

## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

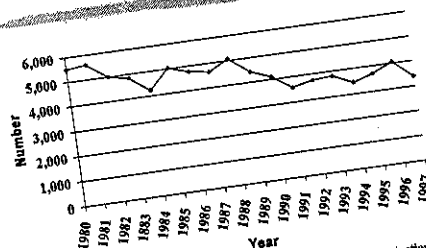


Update for the NASFM Technical Advisory Committee  
on Activities Related to Fire

March 8, 2000

William H. King, Jr.  
Chief Engineer for Electrical and Fire Safety  
301-464-6808, x1206; wking@cpsc.gov

## Estimated Residential Structure Fire Deaths 1980-1997



Source: National Fire Protection Association

## Major CPSC Fire Activities

- **Flammability**
- Upholstered Furniture
- Appliance Enclosures
- Bedding/Mattresses
- Children's Sleepwear
- Apparel Std. Revisions
- **Other**
- Range Cooking Fires
- Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI)
- Gas Water Heaters
- Multi-purpose Lighters
- Candles
- Sprinklers
- Clothes Dryers
- Fixed Room Heaters
- Smoke Alarms

## UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

### Next Steps

- NAS Study Report - Spring '00
- EPA/NIOSH Studies
- CPSC Lab Studies (flammability/durability testing, factors affecting small flame ignition, UK chairs)
- FR Chemical Risk Assessment (toxicity reviews, exposure testing, dermal absorption study)
- Continue to work with ASTM (E5.15 work group)
- Regulatory & Environmental Analysis
- Recommend alternatives to Commission

## PLASTIC APPLIANCE ENCLOSURES

- Thousands of appliance fires reported each year
  - E.G., fans, nursery monitors, humidifiers, coffeemakers, telephone answering machines, irons, others
- Common scenario: Internal components fail, igniting non-FR plastic enclosures.
- UL standard 746C upgrade in process
  - V-rated enclosure materials (or equivalent) for all portable appliances that can operate unattended.
  - 5 year proposed effective date.
- Next Steps
  - Reduce ignition of internal components
  - Glow-wire ignition test for connectors

## BEDDING/MATTRESS OPEN FLAME FIRES

- >10,000 open flame fires, 130 deaths in 1996
  - little change since early 1980s
- CPSC & NASFM/Industry investigations: bedclothes, child-play often involved, many child victims.
- 1998 Chairman's Roundtable
- Industry/NIST research on bedding ignitions of mattresses
- NIST report 3/00; basis for possible open flame standard
- Industry-sponsored public education activities

### CHILDREN'S SLEEPWEAR

- Flammability std. amended 1996 to allow alternatives to address burn risk
- Sleepwear must be flame resistant, "tight-fitting", or  $\leq$  size 9 months
- Mandatory labeling for tight-fitting eff. 6/00
  - hang tag/pkg. label: importance of snug fit
  - permanent label: "Wear snug-fitting, not flame resistant"

### APPAREL REVISIONS

- Need to prohibit highly flammable fabrics
- 50-yr-old clothing textiles std.
- Many recent violations, recalls
- Problems with test procedure & interpretation of results
- CPSC staff to recommend amending std.

### COOKING RANGE FIRES

- 85,000 fires, 300 deaths in 1996
  - Number one consumer product cause of residential fires. 3/4 involved ignition of food.
- Goal - prevent fires through advanced pre-fire detection technology
- Next Steps
  - Standards developers (UL & CSA Int'l) convening meetings this spring.
  - CPSC contract with Energy Int'l, consulting firm developing gas burner technology, results due this spring.

### ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTERS

- New technology to address arcing faults
  - Line-to-line, broken wire
- Tested in 1997-98 to draft UL standard - work really well!
- Introduced into the National Electrical Code this year for 2002 edition

### GAS WATER HEATERS

- New standard going into effect beginning in Apr 2001 for most popular models. All models with the next year.
- New standard requires passing flammable vapor ignition resistance test.

### CANDLE PRODUCTS

- >10,000 fires, 120 deaths in 1996
- Expanding market
- ASTM Subcommittee for new voluntary standard
- Labeling task force drafted guidelines
  - Awaiting Subcommittee ballot
- Test requirements being developed
  - Glass Breakage, Sooting, Lead (Pb), Aeromatics

### **FIRE SPRINKLERS**

- Omega Recall - 1998
- Two year project started 10/98
- Assess basic product designs/reliability
- Collect field data
- Codes Assessment
- Product Standards Assessment
- Product Design Assessment
- Limited Testing
- Industry consortium

### **OTHER CPSC ACTIVITIES**

- Clothes Dryers: >15,000 fires, gas and electric, related to lint accumulation and improper venting. Conducted tests. Starting discussion to improve vol. stds.
- Fixed-Position Electric Room Heaters: >2300 fires. Conducting tests, evaluating std.
- Smoke Alarms: Research program planned. Evaluate performance.